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Prevalence and drivers of violence among children in Pakistan

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WhatWorks

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

A Global Programme To Prevent
Violence Against Women and Girls

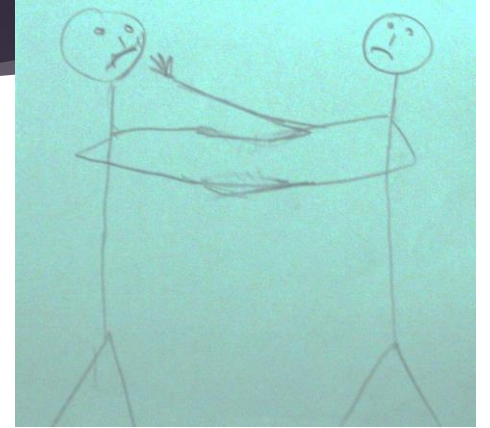


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MEDICINE



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 - ▶ Schools Teachers and children



INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Violence against children is a public health problem, annually affecting 50% of youth worldwide.
- ▶ According to national studies in Pakistan 2014, children were found to be more involved in bullying, fighting and victimizing. (Shujja S, Atta M, Shujjat JM. 2014)

OBJECTIVES

To describe:

- ▶ Peer violence perpetration and victimization prevalence among boys and girls in sixth grade in schools of Pakistan
- ▶ Associations between socio-economic status, school performance, mental health, gender attitudes, violence at home and peer violence perpetration and victimization



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METHODS

- ▶ Setting: Hyderabad city in Sindh Province, Pakistan
- ▶ 40 public schools (20 boys schools and 20 girls schools)
- ▶ Participants: 1752 children (822 boys and 930 girls) enrolled in 6th grade
- ▶ Study design: baseline interviews from a two-arm randomised controlled trial evaluating the Red Ball Child Play intervention of Right To Play
- ▶ Data collection: standard questionnaire in Urdu/Sindhi, self-completed but interviewer assisted
- ▶ Ethics: Consent from province, school principals, parental consent, and child consent



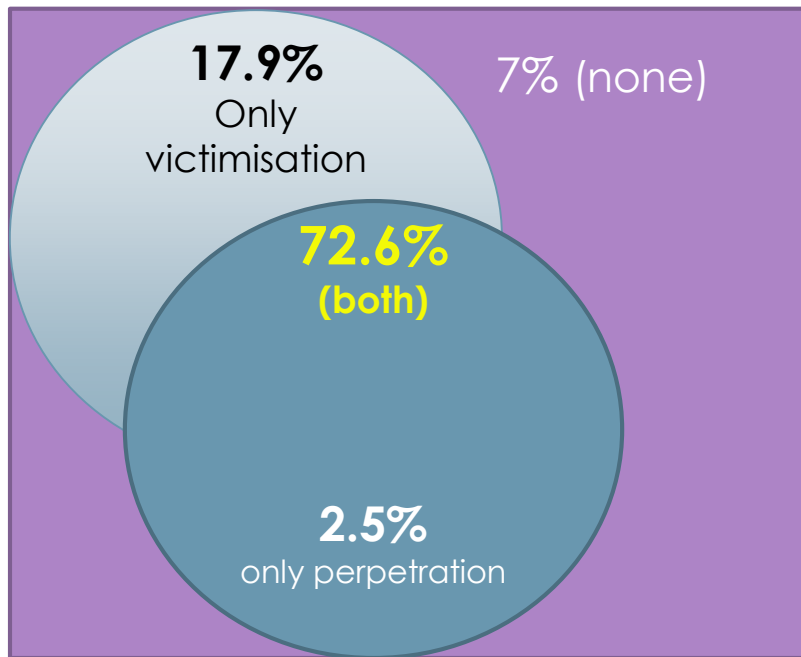
MEASURES

- ▶ Peer Victimization scale of Mynard & Joseph 2000), adapted for Pakistan and for perpetration; CDC definition of cut point (>1 act versus 0 or 1);
- ▶ Child Depression Inventory;
- ▶ Gender Attitudes Toward Women's Role and Community Participation;
- ▶ Family Life;
- ▶ School Performance;
- ▶ and Food Security

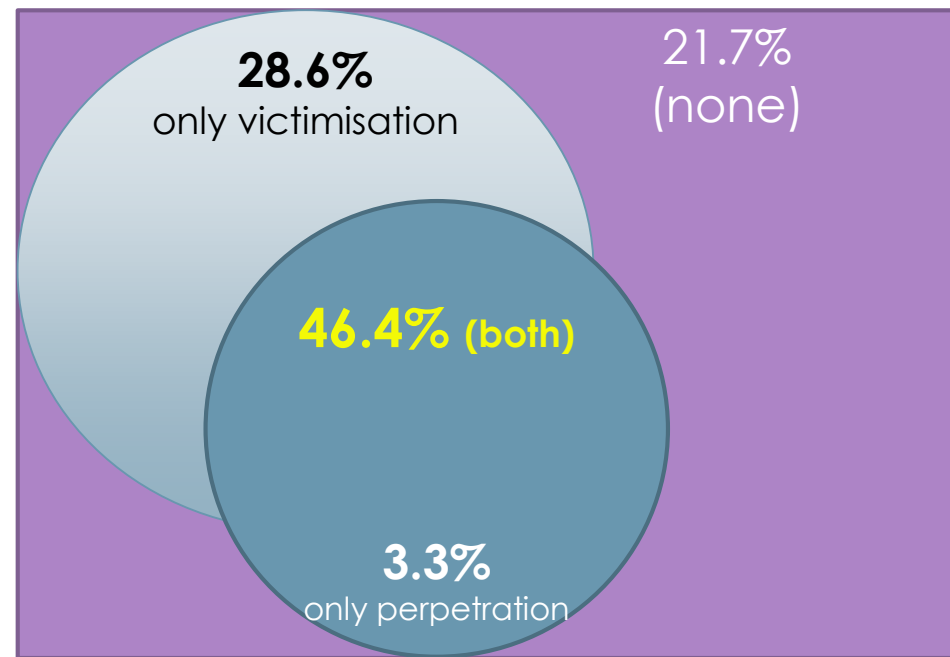


Peer violence victimisation and perpetration in past 4 weeks

▶ BOYS



▶ GIRLS

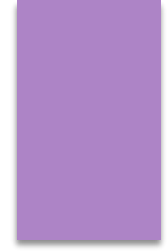


Age, siblings and food security by peer violence victimisation/perpetration



	VICTIMISATION						PERPETRATION					
	GIRLS			BOYS			GIRLS			BOYS		
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
%	%	P value	%	%	P value	%	%	P value	%	%	P value	
Age (mean)	12.3	12.3		12.5	12.8	0.018	12.2	12.3		12.5	12.6	
# Brothers	2.3	2.1	0.018	2.7	2.8		2.3	2.1	0.023	2.7	2.8	
# Sisters	2.7	2.5		2.2	2.2		2.7	2.6		2.3	2.1	
Household assets (% having all)	75.1	76.0		73.2	72.6		76.0	73.9		70.8	78.3	
Hunger score	0.5	0.3	<0.001	0.7	0.3		0.6	0.3	0.002	0.7	0.4	0.008
In the last 4 weeks, how often did you go to school without breakfast because of lack of food at home? Never	80.3	89.6	0.04	75.4	87.7		77.8	86.6	0.009	73.6	83.9	0.02
Sometimes	13.8	7.2		18.5	11.0		16.3	8.8		19.7	13.6	
Often	5.9	3.2		6.1	1.4		6.0	4.6		6.7	2.5	
In the last 4 weeks, how often do you go to sleep without dinner because of lack of food at home?	79.9	91.4	0.0008	73.7	86.3		74.9	88.8	0.0002	70.7	84.4	0.004
Sometimes	16.2	6.8		20.2	11.0		20.3	8.6		22.2	13.1	
Often	4.0	1.8		6.1	2.7		4.9	2.6		7.0	2.5	

Associations with school performance and attendance



	VICTIMISATION						PERPETRATION					
	GIRLS			BOYS			GIRLS			BOYS		
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
	%	%	P value	%	%	P value	%	%	P value	%	%	P value
School												
School performance score (mean)	9.6	9.8	0.114	9.3	9.9	0.03	9.5	9.7	0.33	9.2	9.8	<0.001
Ever repeated a grade	22.0	18.2	0.215	26.4	15.1	0.069	22.1	20.5	0.561	27.2	19.3	0.045
2 or more days absent from school in last 4 weeks	83.8	78.6	0.22	87.9	65.8	0.001	83.6	81.1	0.463	88.3	79.2	0.014
Last day off due to working	17.6	8.4	0.001	26.9	11.6	0.009	16.5	14.1	0.262	26.7	21.1	0.198
Last day off due to not having done homework	13.5	6.0	0.013	19.1	17.4	0.771	13.6	10.2	0.261	21.1	13.6	0.075
Last day off due to being afraid to attend because of bullying	3.4	1.0	0.068	7.6	5.8	0.631						

Associations with violence at home and gender attitudes

	VICTIMISATION						PERPETRATION					
	GIRLS			BOYS			GIRLS			BOYS		
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
	%	%	P value	%	%	P value	%	%	P value	%	%	P value
Physical abuse of mother by father or in-laws (past 4 weeks)	10.0	0.9	0.0001	13.5	1.4	0.005	12.6	3.1	<0.0001	15.6	4.0	0.0002
Seen or heard father involved in a physical fight with another man (past 4 weeks)	21.1	6.3	<0.0001	27.7	6.9	0.002	25.0	9.4	<0.0001	30.3	11.6	<0.0001
Patriarchal gender attitudes scale (high ==> more patriarchal)	2.8	1.6	<0.0001	3.4	1.9	0.065	3.0	2.0	0.002	3.6	2.5	0.021
Depression (score)	55.8	50.4	<0.0001	57.1	51.1	0.004	56.6	52.5	<0.0001	57.7	53.5	<0.0001

Multivariable logistic regression models of factors associated with peer violence victimisation and perpetration (significant associations shown in yellow)

	VICTIMISATION				PERPETRATION			
	GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS	
	Model 1	Model 2: adjusted for perpetration	Model 1	Model 2: adjusted for perpetration	Model 1	Model 2: adjusted for victimisation	Model 1	Model 2: adjusted for victimisation
Hunger							Yellow	Yellow
School								
School performance			Yellow				Yellow	Yellow
Last day off due to working	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow				
Violence at home and gender								
Abuse of mother (mean)	Yellow				Yellow	Yellow		
Seen or heard father to have a physical fight with another man	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Patriarchal gender attitudes scale	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Perpetration / victimisation								
Perpetration		Yellow		Yellow				
Victimisation						Yellow		Yellow

Summary of key findings

- ▶ The study population were on average 12 years old and lived in poverty. Food insecurity was quite prevalent and school attendance was patchy, with many children missing school in order to work
- ▶ Many of the children grew up with common use of violence at home: fathers fighting with other men and physical abuse of their mothers by their father or an in-law
- ▶ Factors associated with girl violence victimisation and perpetration were very similar and notably those involved had a more violent father (towards mother and other men) and they themselves had more conservative gender attitudes.



Summary of key findings

- ▶ Both boy and girl victimisation was also associated with having to take time off school to work
- ▶ Other factors associated with boy violence victimisation and perpetration were having a more violent father towards other men and having more conservative gender attitudes, but also having poorer school performance. Boy perpetrators had more hunger than those who did not.



Connecting violence between child peers, violent masculinity and gender attitudes

- ▶ All involvement in violence among peers (by boys and girls, as victims and perpetrators) was associated with having more conservative gender attitudes i.e. lower levels of positive gender empowerment
- ▶ Children raised in homes where their fathers perform a more violent masculinity are much more likely to be involved in violence at school as perpetrators and/or as victims
- ▶ Girls appear more affected than boys by physical abuse of their mother and it places them at risk of perpetrating and being victimised
- ▶ Socio-economic status had an important influence on violence: Engagement in child labour made both boys and girls more vulnerable to victimisation at school, and hunger made boys more likely to perpetrate



Conclusion

These findings support the idea that an intervention in schools to empower girls and boys may be effective in reducing peer violence

Dissemination: publications under review

- ▶ Preventing Violence Against Children: Methods and Baseline Data of a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial in Pakistan. Under Review in *Global Health: Science and Practice*
- ▶ Use of Activity-Oriented Questions in Qualitative Focus Group Discussions to Explore Youth Violence in Sindh, Pakistan: A Research Note. Under review in *Qualitative Research*

Dissemination: work in progress

- ▶ Victimization and Perpetration of Youth: Experiences of Violence Described by Students and Teachers in Grade Six to Eight in Pakistan (Journal of Adolescent Health)
- ▶ The Intersection of School Corporal Punishment and Youth Violence: Baseline Results From a Randomized Controlled Trial in Pakistan (Child Abuse and Neglect)
- ▶ The Intersection of Child Depression and Peer Violence: Baseline Results From A Randomized Controlled Trial in Pakistan
- ▶ Youth Attitudes Toward Adult Gender Roles and Associations With Youth Violence & Family Life: Baseline Results From A Randomized Controlled Trial in Pakistan
- ▶ Prevalence and associated factors of Youth Victimization and Perpetration in Pakistan: from a Cluster Randomized Controlled



Thank You

